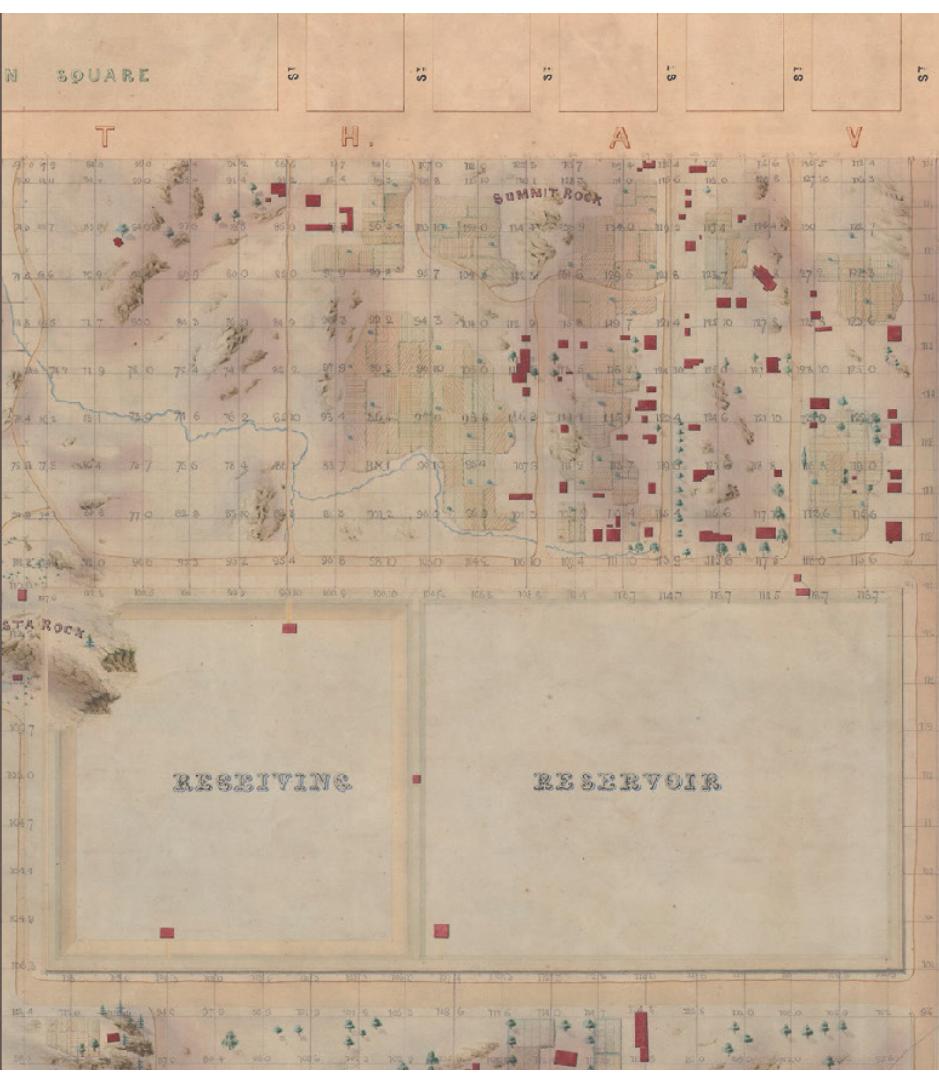


SENECA VILLAGE

Toward a Permanent Commemoration





W 88th St

W 86th St

W 84th St

W 82nd St

Before Central Park, the landscape along what is now the Park's perimeter from approximately West 82nd to 89th Street was home to a predominantly African-American community (2/3 Black, 1/3 Irish) known as Seneca Village.

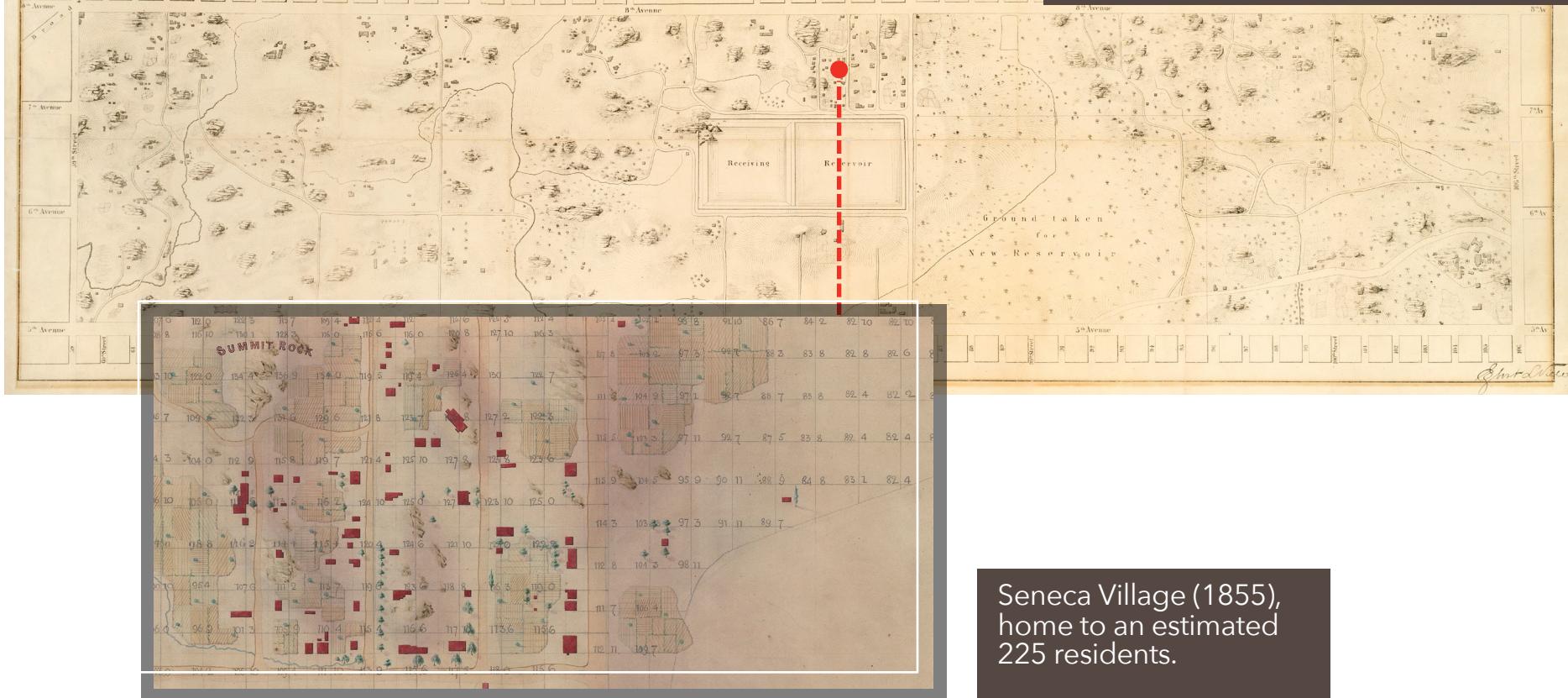
Seneca Village had three churches, a school, and high rates of property ownership, which in some cases made male owners eligible to vote. When the City acquired the land for the park in 1857, its residents were displaced and forgotten.



1856

MAP
of the lands included in THE CENTRAL PARK, Topo.

The pre-park landscape was home to about 1,600 residents spread over approximately 800 acres.



LONG-TERM GOAL

Design a permanent commemorative element for Seneca Village in Central Park that celebrates its history, inspires reflection, and publicly situates Seneca Village as a site of significance in American history.

PROCESS

Engage partners and community stakeholders to share the history of Seneca Village and facilitate conversations about why it matters, what we are honoring, and what we aim to achieve.



Launched in 2025, the 200th anniversary of Seneca Village, we will host two years of programs to deepen awareness of Seneca Village, encourage new thinking about commemoration, and discuss how race, history, and public space intersect.



LEARN MORE: centralparknyc.org/seneca-village

Seneca Village Tours

Discover Seneca Village, the largest community of free African-American property owners in pre-Civil War New York.



Free Educators' Tours

This tour is free of charge for NYC educators. Please register using your school email address.

